

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 MMO-01 /016 W

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R 021709Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5939

AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

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FOR IMV, IEU, STATE FOR EUR/SOV; P&C/LENINGRAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL UR

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10087 (B) ARNOLD-BENSON TELCON JUNE 25

1. AS THE AGENCY IS NOW AWARE (REF A) MEETING WITH SLAVNOV DID NOT PRODUCE APPROVAL OF OUR PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL FEILM FESTIVAL.

2. WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, AND AGREE ON NEED TO FOCUS IN SOME DETAIL ON HOW THE FESTIVAL MIGHT BE ORGANIZED. (FYI: EMBASSY OFFICERS SHARING ACTION RESPONSIBILITY ARE BENSON, CALLAWAY AND FORNER, ALL OF P&C).

3. EMBASSY PLEASED TO HEAR , PER TELCON, THAT USIA CAN OBTAIN "ALMOST ANY FILM" IT WANTS. FESTIVAL WE HOPE TO ORGANIZE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY UNIQUE LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DICTATING POSSIBLE AUDIENCES, THUS CHOICE OF FILMS AND TYPE OF SHOWING, I.E., WHETHER OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR RESTRICTED TO FILM MAKERS, CRITICS, WRITERS, ETC.

4. THOUGH FINAL WORD DEPENDS ON LATER DISCUSSIONS WITH SLAVNOV AND OTHER GOSKINO OFFICIALS, EMBASSY'S PRESENT PLANS ARE TO SUGGEST IN EFFECT TWO FESTIVALS PLUS SEMINARS. ONE SERIES WOULD BE IN LARGE THEATER

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AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, WITH TWO FILMS PER DAY

(FOR TOTAL OF 14) AND AS MANY SHOWINGS AS ARE DEEMED FEASIBLE. THE OTHER WOULD BE OF FILMS WHICH WE REALIZE WOULD NEVER BE APPROVED FOR GENERAL VIEWING, WORKS BY THE YOUNGER MORE ADVENTURESOME DIRECTORS; AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT ONE OR MORE OF THEM COULD BE HERE FOR THE FESTIVAL. WE ENVISAGE SEVEN FILMS, ONE PER DAY.

5. THE SEMINARS MIGHT CONSIDER: (A) THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE CINEMA AS AN ART FORM AND ENTERTAINMENT; AND (B) THE NEW TECHNIQUES AND APPROACHES OF THE MOST HIGHLY REGARDED CONTEMPORARY DIRECTORS. AS INDICATED, THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF THE YOUNGER DIRECTORS WOULD ENHANCE THE FESTIVAL GREATLY. AN OLDER MAN (CAPRA WOULD BE SPLENDID) COULD SPEAK OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCES (SEMINAR A) AND OFFER COMMENT ON HIS YOUNGER COLLEAGUES' WORK (SEMINAR B). A CRITIC AND HISTORIAN OF THE CINEMA COULD PARTICIPATE IN BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND SEMINARS.

6. SHOULD WELL-KNOWN ACTORS BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL, THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO COME FOR THE OPENING AND BE INVITED, IF THEIR TIME PERMITS TO STAY FOR THE SEMINARS, UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE WILL PROBABLY BE SMALL AND NON-PUBLIC EVENTS.

7. SINCE THERE COULD BE ONLY 14 FILMS FOR THE "PUBLIC FESTIVAL," A BROAD PANORAMA OF THE HISTORY OF THE CINEMA IN THE UNITED STATES IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND WE WOULD EXCLUDE SILENT OR EARLY SOUND FILMS. SUGGEST TWO FILMS FOR EACH OF SEVEN CATEGORIES WITH SPECIFIC MOVIES TO BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG SUCH MOVIES AS THOSE LISTED:

(A) MUSICAL

1. WEST SIDE STORY
2. SOUND OF MUSIC
3. AMERICAN IN PARIS
4. CABARET
5. 7 BRIDES FOR 7 BROTHERS
6. ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

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(B) NOVEL OR PLAY MADE INTO MOVIE

1. GREAT GATSBY
2. FROM HERE TO ETERNITY
3. ON THE WATERFRONT
4. CAT ON HOT TIN ROOF
5. YEARLING
6. SHIP OF FOOLS

7. BEN HUR

(C) ON MOVIE INDUSTRY

1. DAY OF THE LOCUST
2. SUNSET BOULEVARD
3. A STAR IS BORN
4. LAST TYCOON

(D) WESTERN

1. HIGH NOON
2. SHANE
3. TRUE GRIT

(E) SUSPENSE

1. NORTH BY NORTHWEST
2. REBECCA
3. THE BIRDS
4. JAWS
5. POSEIDON ADVENTURE
6. TOWERING INFERNO

(F) COMEDY

1. MODERN TIMES
2. MOUSE THAT ROARED
3. ROMAN HOLIDAY

(G) HISTORY/PAGEANT

1. CIMARRON
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2. BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI
3. CAVALCADE
4. GIANT

8. AMONG THE MANY MOVIES WHICH COME IMMEDIATELY TO
MIND FOR THE SEVEN SEPARATE SHOWINGS (PARA 4
ABOVE):

(1) ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

(2) KLUTE

(3) NASHVILLE

(4) EASY RIDER

(5) LAST PICTURE SHOW

(6) CHINATOWN

(7) MISSOURI BREAKS

9. WELCOME AGENCY/DEPARTMENT COMMENT.

10. WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK FURTHER MEETING WITH GOSKINO.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MOTION PICTURES, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW10520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-0164
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760795/aaaadftr.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 10087
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL
TAGS: SCUL, UR, US
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006